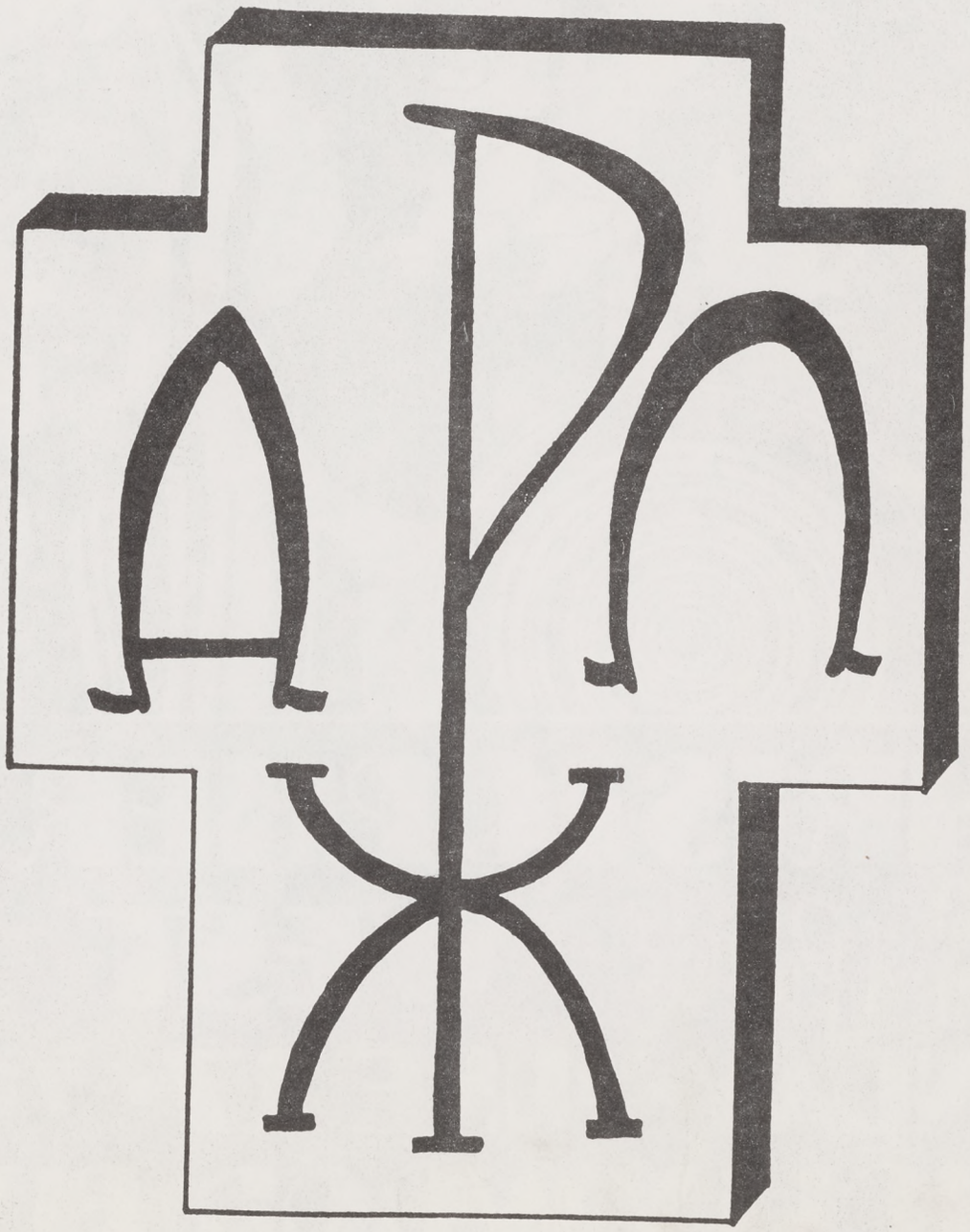
MCC NEWS

VOLUME III LOS ANGELES, CA. APRIL 25, 1971 NO. 28

DONATION 25 ¢



CHRISTOPHER ST. WEST

the Gay Parade

SUNDAY · JUNE 27 · 7 P.M.

HOLLYWOOD BLV'D.

1

Homosexual Churches Continue to Appear

BY GEORGE W. CORNELL
AP Religion Writer

★ Los Angeles Times 27
Sat., Apr. 17, 1971—Part I

NEW YORK—About 80 people filled the small conference room. Most were men, a half dozen women. Included were numerous seminarians and ministers, some in clerical collars. Many freely asserted their homosexuality.

"Homosexuality as a way of life is an idea whose time has come," said the Rev. Thomas Maurer of San Francisco, urging churches to recognize it as a moral alternative. "If something is sexually loving, it's good," he said.

The occasion was the National Conference on Religion and the Homosexual, held here recently, and it offered a review of the rising demands by homosexuals for open acceptance by the churches.

It also sketched the rapid growth of a network of independent congregations especially for homosexuals.

10 'Gay Churches'

There are now at least 10 of these "gay churches," started in the last two years in cities across the country, with others in the developing stages, conference leaders said.

"Our congregation has doubled to 600 in eight months and it will double again by September," said the Rev. Robert Clement, pastor of a Manhattan congregation for homosexuals, the Church of the Beloved Apostle.

"We've had a welling, outpouring of love like I've never seen before," he said. "People come, not because they're gay but because they're religious and they can worship without hiding their identities as homosexuals. The basic motivation is Christianity."

A key concern expressed at the conference, which also included "straight" churchmen not espousing homosexuality, was whether present trends pointed to the rise of a formerly separate denomination for homosexuals.

Become Impatient

They've become impatient, "waiting for the church to make up its mind" about accepting them, said the Rev. Robert W. Wood of Newark, N.J. He said the church should consider homosexuality as "morally neutral" as left-handedness.

"It's an area where spiritual leaders need to do some serious rethinking," he said. He said there are 8.5 million homosexuals in the country.

Under present prevailing circumstances, it was emphasized that they generally must conceal their condition to be accepted in ordinary churches, and this is driving them to start separate congregations.

"We don't like segregation, but the awful fact is that the 'gay church' is coming into existence," Mr. Maurer said.

Part of Alliance

Most of the newly formed homosexual congregations already are part of a loosely linked, denomination-like alliance called the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

It involves congregations in San Francisco, Chicago, Miami, Dallas, Philadelphia, San Diego, Minneapolis, Washington, D.C., Phoenix and Los Angeles, where the Rev. Troy D. Perry started the first one in 1968.

Other "gay" congregations were said to be functioning either underground or as mission branches from Boston to Honolulu. All of them are ecumenical, drawing members from various denominations, Roman Catholic and Protestant.

MCC NEWS

Editor-In-Chief
Bo Siewert
Assistant Editor
Joe Coltrane
Circulation Manager
Clarence Irving
Inventory Control
Hans Wagner
Production Control
Harry Waggaman
Events Coordinator
Yfke Alexander
Staff Writers
Bill Bennett
Barrie Bryant
Staff Members
Tom Purcell
Don Hughes
AND several
vacancies

MAIL:
2201 S. Union
Los Angeles, CA 90007
PHONE:
(213) 748-0123

All articles to be published in The MCC News MUST be signed. If you are concerned enough to write, and we hope you are, be concerned enough to sign your articles, etc..

MOVED ?
NEW ADDRESS
PHONE NUMBER

The following article is reprinted from *The Nuntius*, published in Houston, Texas (April edition):

MCC, THE GAY CHURCH

The question is often asked, "Is Metropolitan Community Church the Gay Church?" The answer is No, it is a Christian Church for the gay community. A person does not have to be gay to go to MCC, but most of them are and the others who attend our services are people who understand our cause and decide they too want to be part of it.

MCC was founded by Rev. Troy Perry, a minister who found that being gay didn't separate him from God. The separation was from the individual church, a group of heterosexual people who didn't understand and didn't want to understand what made a person homosexual. This was the separation -- not from God. Rev. Perry and all the others who have become involved with MCC are finding that God didn't cast us out but that the so-called Christian people in the various denominations were the ones who said we couldn't be Christians and be gay.

Jesus never questioned a person when asked how to be saved. Jesus only said "Ye must be born again." This was to all people, not a select few. He also said "Love God," and "Love your neighbor." If He had qualifications for salvation He would have said so when asked.

Can a homosexual be a Christian? Sure he can! It's a simple matter of love.

by Rev. Tom Markham
Pastor
MCC Houston

CENTRAL PARISH MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Central Parish on Tuesday evening, April 27th, at 8:00 PM in the Seminary Room.

If you are a member of this Parish will you please make an effort to attend.

John Logan, Deacon

YOUR SOCIAL DIRECTOR

For you actors and actresses in the congregation, or those of you who aspire to be on the stage, our theatre group is re-forming.

In November, our Church gave its first play, "Fashion," and it turned into a fantastic performance from the cast, and showed many what our Church could do when it came to having a theatre group. Soon afterward, we began working on our Church building, and the members of the group felt it was better to work on the building, and start the group again when most of the work was done.

The Metropolitan Players of MCC are casting for the play "Rope," a mystery drama, for their next production. There are parts for six men and two women. Tryouts will be held at the Church Friday evening, April 30th, at 7:00 PM. For further information call Lyle Page at 886-7896.

As you know we are offering $50.00 for the person who sells the most tickets to our "May Festival." So pick up your tickets and win the prize.

Next week we are beginning our Brunches. The price will be about $1.50. You have asked for it, and here it is. We hope that each and everyone of you will support your Social Committee. All proceeds will go toward acquiring equipment and supplies for the kitchen. So instead of eating in some expensive restaurant where you often are made uncomfortable, join us, and be loved.

Bill Bennett

Third Annual MAY FESTIVAL

THE FACTORY

622 N. LAPEER
WEST HOLLYWOOD

MAY 22, 1971

* *

DO YOU HAVE THE ANSWER?

The following article is an excerpt from *MCC Speaking Up*, San Francisco. We should all read it carefully, as it does apply to MCC *everywhere*.

"Let us look at MCC as a redwood sapling. The things necessary for a sapling to grow are many, as are they for MCC. Soon the sapling becomes a young tree with branches which aid in its growth; so does MCC. Each branch serves a purpose.

"Should you strip the tree of its branches it will surely die. The branches of MCC are its various committees and groups. The work in these committees and groups is being done by too few; one branch cannot sustain a tree forever, nor can these few sustain MCC forever.

"Therefore, it benooves all those with the good intention of making MCC a working church to contribute of themselves something which costs them nothing: time and knowledge. For as was pointed out, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Should MCC be stripped of its branches because of overwork or pride or will it gain more branches which will share the workload, branches which are responsible and can be relied upon to sustain it until it grows to full maturity?

"Shall we all ask ourselves this question?"

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The *MCC News* staff will welcome assistance from those willing to devote a few minutes or a few hours each week in some phase of our activity.

There are several spots open, so no matter what talents you have, we'll find a good assignment for you!

If you've been looking for a chance to be of service to MCC, now is the time to do something about it. Please contact any staff member at the Publications counter after services on Sunday, or call the Church and leave your name and telephone so we can contact you.

From *MCC Speaking Up*, San Francisco:

"IT TOOK A MIRACLE"

A miracle happened at the Board of Directors meeting at the Community Center last Tuesday evening.

A motion was on the floor *not* to use the booth space allotted to MCC at the Tavern Guild's "Circus Circus" to be held today at California Hall. Several members of the Board contended that the fair was presumably oriented toward activities not in keeping with the social mores advocated by the church; hence, MCC should not be a participant.

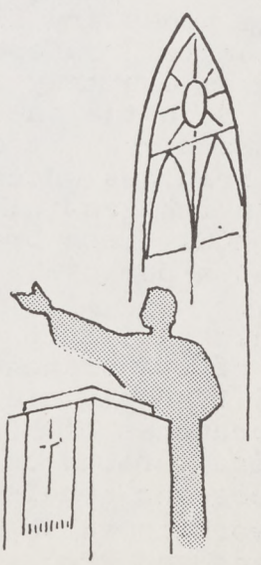
Right before the vote was to be taken, a vote that probably would pass the motion, a drunk staggered into the Community Center. He wasn't very pretty or coherent. Yet some of us felt a little humble and ashamed after the unfortunate man left. It was as if the man had been a messenger of the Lord. He was telling us that we must be willing to go into those places where people are lonely and afraid. We must promulgate the message of Christ in situations that are characterized by sexual promiscuity and drunkenness. We must not set ourselves up as judges and expect our lost brethren to come crawling to us, begging our forgiveness. Instead we have to go to them and, in a non-condemning way, tell them of the love of Christ and the message of MCC. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

With the strength of our Christian faith we have dragged ourselves out of the mire of sin with the love of Christ we must wade back into that morass and rescue our drowning brethren. We cannot stand on the banks and half-heartedly extend a helping hand. Our commitment to them must be complete and unrestrained.

Such a commitment does not recognize any place or situation in which the message of Christ should be kept out.

A vote was taken. The motion not to participate was defeated. Today MCC has a booth at "Circus Circus." People manning the booth are telling inquirers the message of our church. As a result lives will be touched by Christ's gentle hand. The Lord has promised us that our efforts shall bear fruit because we have responded to His will.

Howard Wells



BROTHER JUNE SAYS:

"Goodbye, until we meet again."

Dear Readers:

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who have written to me during the year my column appeared in the *MCC News*. To some, I feel as though we have a very personal feeling between us, since some of you were able to ask questions which you never were able to do before. To others we had our differences, which only brought us closer.

At this time I am announcing that the Brother June column has come to an end, of my own choosing. For me, it is a sad occasion, since my heart has been warmed so many times by so many beautiful letters written by so many beautiful people.

A very special thanks to Bo, for allowing my column to appear in the *MCC News*. Also, a very, very special thanks to you, the readers, for your support, and also to those of you who wrote voicing your opinions agai

A very special thanks to Bo, for allowing my column to appear in the *MCC News*. Also, a very, very special thanks to you, the readers, for your support, and also to those of you who wrote voicing your opinions against the Brother June column. Also, because together you proved that Brother June was being read.

Memories of your letters will remain in my heart for the rest of my life.

Love, Brother June

M.C.C. NEWS 2201 S. UNION AVE. LOS ANGELES, CA 90007

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Payment Enclosed:

☐ Next 13 issues: $4. (1st Class)

☐ Next 26 issues: $ 7.50 (1st Class)

2nd Anniversary Issue $1

Sample 50¢

A PUBLICATION OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, INC.

SUPPORT THE BROWN BILL TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

This year the "Brown Bill," AG437, finally passed the Assembly Criminal Procedure Committee and is ready to come before the State Senate and Assembly. It took a long time for the Bill to get this far. Now it will pass only if enough of us support it. Efforts must be directed to letting our State Representatives know that we want them to vote favorably.

I urge every Member and Friend of this Church to write, or send a telegram, to your State Senator and Assemblyman NOW. Please urge your friends and even your friends' friends to do the same. Let's not lose the chance of getting this Bill passed due to our neglect to act accordingly. After all, this Bill will protect us.

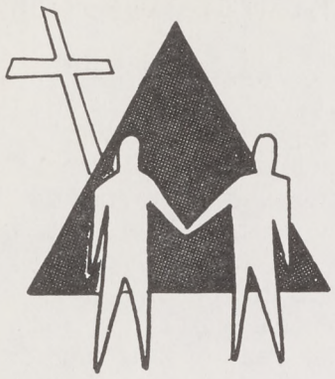
Let Sacramento know of the voting strength of MCC. Sign your letters and telegrams as members of Metropolitan Community Church!

R. T. Pannell

FLASH!

May 30th will be THE red letter day for our people in Honolulu. Reverend Perry will be on hand as our Mission there becomes a fully chartered Church.

God bless & God speed to all our Island brothers and sisters!



COUPLES CLUB

Mike and Don hosted the sixth meeting of the Couples Club on Friday, April 2nd at their home in the Hollywood Hills. Dr. David A. Thiele, a psychiatrist, spoke on "Communication in Marriage." After a few introductory remarks by Dr. Thiele a lively group discussion followed on the problems of communication.

The next General Meeting of the Couples Club will be on Friday, May 14th, at the Church. We plan to meet regularly at the Church on the second Friday of each month thereafter. All couples are cordially invited to attend. If you know couples living in the Orange County area who would like to participate in Couples Meetings have them contact Christ Chapel Metropolitan Community Church for information on their next meeting. The Orange County Couples Club met on April 18th for a pot luck dinner at the Hermosa Beach home of Ron and Vern Isakson.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

8 April 1971

Beloved Bo:

The Christopher Street-West Committee gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of *MCC News* in the re-printing of our fine leaflet for the June 27th Hollywood Boulevard Parade.

This is the kind of community-wide cooperation which will make of that event the really enormous showing of the whole Gay community, that we've all wanted it to be.

Doubtless, you have noted that Pat Rocco's Spree News did the same thing, that the Sexual Freedom League is doing a mailing to all its members, as is the church group in Berkeley with whom we are in contact. All organizations are urged to do as MCC did, either reprint it, or ask the Committee for whatever it can distribute or re-mail.

Surely everybody in our community knows that Christopher Street-West will represent the whole kaliedoscope of political, social, economic, and committed members, and that is one of the places where we all get together and share, as brothers and sisters, and as joyous celebrants.

Joy to the People,

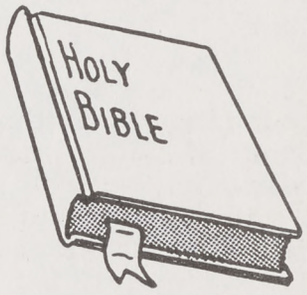
For: Christopher Street-West

Morris Kight

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matt. 5:3)

To be poor in spirit does not in the least mean the thing we call "Poor Spirited." To be poor in spirit means to have emptied yourself of all desire to exercise personal self will, and, what is just as important, to have renounced all preconceived opinions in the wholehearted search for God. It means to be willing to set aside your present habits of thought, your present views and prejudices, your present way of life, if necessary: To cast out, in fact, anything and everything that can stand in your way of finding God.

Rev. Ken Jones
Minister of Visitation

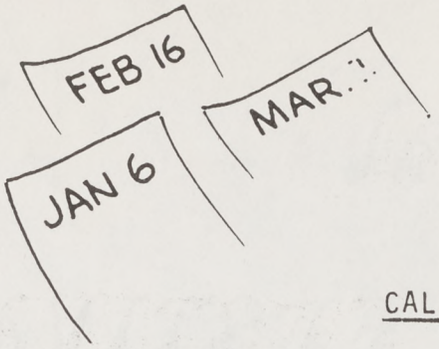


TO MY MCC FAMILY

I wish to extend my deepest thanks and gratitude to all of you for your prayers, cards, flowers and calls during my recent stay in the hospital. May God's blessing be with each and every one of you always. Together in Christ we are one.

Kathy Laine

Albert Correa



DATES to Remember!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, APRIL 26th	7 - 9	SAMARITAN BIBLE SEMINARY
	7:30	GOSPEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
TUESDAY, APRIL 27th	8:00 pm	VALLEY PARISH MEETING AT BOB BAKER'S, 5348 ALLOT AVENUE, VAN NUYS. PHONE 789-2966 FOR DIRECTIONS.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28th	7 - 9	SAMARITAN BIBLE SEMINARY
FRIDAY, APRIL 30th	7:00	METROPOLITAN PLAYERS - CASTING
	7 - 9	SAMARITAN BIBLE SEMINARY
	7:30	GOSPEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
SATURDAY, MAY 1st	8:00 pm	PRAYER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 2nd		THE ACADEMY:
	9:30	"THE LIFE OF CHRIST"
	9:30	"ETHICAL PROBLEMS"
	10:15	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
	7:00 pm	EVENING CHURCH SERVICES
TUESDAY, MAY 11th) TUESDAY, MAY 25th)	8:00 pm	VALLEY PARISH MEETING AT BOB BAKER'S, 5348 ALLOT AVENUE, VAN NUYS.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

MAY 22nd	MAY FESTIVAL - 8:30 pm THE FACTORY 622 NO. LA PEER WEST HOLLYWOOD	DONATIONS: $5.00
JUNE	MCC VAUDEVILLE: PLACE TO BE CONFIRMED.	
JULY	SEA CRUISE TO CATALINA: DATE TO BE SET.	

Third Annual

MAY FESTIVAL

$5

THE FACTORY

622 N. LAPEER

W. HOLLYWOOD 8:30 PM

MAY 22, 1971

GUEST STAR:

CHARLES PIERCE

Free VEGAS TRIP

SPECIAL ATTRACTION:

SAN FRANCISCO BALLET TROUPE

"IN CONJUNCTION WITH "THE ODYSSEY CLUB"